Marine Products Exports

168. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total marine products exports in the first nine months of the fiscal year 2004-05;

(b) the respective exports from Cochin and Visakhapatnam during this period;

(c) whether it is a fact that more exports are orignating at Visakhapatnam port;

(d) if so, what additional steps MPEDA propose to take to increase exports from Visakhapatnam; and

(e) the details of plan to expand the storage capacity for exports by MPEDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per the provisional export figures provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the exports of our marine products during the period April-December, 2004 amounted to US$ 1088.24 million.

(b) The respective exports from Cochin and Visakhapatnam ports during this period were provisionally US$188.46 million and US$ 176.93 million respectively.

(c) For the exports of marine products, Chennai is the leading port.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To expand the storage capacity for exports of marine products, MPEDA has been extending financial assistance for setting up large cold storage for storing fish and fish products.

Decline in India's export share

169. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in world exports which was 1.5 per cent at Independence, has as per latest records, come down to a mere 0.8 per cent;

(b) if so, whether Government has lately gone into the main causes of such a drastic decline;

(c) what are the main items of exports which have largely suffered; and

(d) whether any new policy or strategy has been worked out to restore India's due place in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) India's share in world exports declined after independence as world exports increased at rapid pace. However, the decline was contained during the 1980s and thereafter India's share in world exports started rising. According to Economic Sur-vey-2004-05, Government of India, India's share in world exports rose from 0.6% in 1999 to 0.7% in 2001. In 2002, India attained 0.8% share in world exports which was broadly maintained in 2003 also. Thus there has been no decline in India's share in world exports in the recent past.

(d) Yes, Sir. A New Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) was announced in August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's share of global merchandise trade within the next five years. Some of the key strategies adopted in the FTP include: simplification of procedures, reduction in transaction cost, neutralisation of incidence of all levies and duties on inputs used for exports, identification of special focus areas like agriculture, handlooms, handicraft, gems and jewellery, leather and footwear for further promotion. In addition Export Promotion Schemes like Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna' (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme) and Target Plus' have been introduced to further accelerate growth of exports.

Marketing Assistance to exporters

170. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exporters have made a demand to Government to increase marketing assistance for exporters in keeping with the norms laid down by WTO;

(b) what specific demands have been made by exporters for enhanced marketing assistance;